

# THE OLDTIMER

Volume 31, Number 2

The Newsletter of the Josephine County Historical Society

May, 1996

## We have a date

### MAY

■ The Evergreen Federal displays will be oil paintings and pastels by Bonnie Rust and China painting by Jo Lorr.

■ Living History presentation on G Street for "Amazing May," May 17, 1 to 4 p.m.

■ Society meeting and potluck in Sunny Valley at the old town hall, with Applegate Trail video and program, May 18, 12:30 p.m.

### JUNE

■ Bus Tour to the Klamath Falls' county museum and the Baldwin Hotel, June 15.

■ Open house for the Model A Ford Club at the Schmidt House. The club's holding a summer convention here, June 21, 1 to 4 p.m.

### JULY

■ Deadline for next Oldtimer, July 15.

■ Annual Pie Social in Wilderville, July 20.

### AUGUST

■ Aug. 20-24. As always the society will have a photo display at the Josephine Co. Fair.

For information on any of these events call 479-7827.

## Profile

### Student Lindsay Hamlyn impresses society with her jet boat history

By Lee Ann Tardieu

It hasn't been given for many years, but it's still become a sought-after student award — especially for young people in Josephine County who are interested in history.

The Pauline Meade Shier award was named for a Josephine County Historical Society member who volunteered and was a secretary for many years for the society. The award is given every year to either an adult or a business and then again to a student of history.

This past year the awards went to Edna May Hill, an author known to most members of the society, and to Lindsay Hamlyn, daughter of Bob Hamlyn, who may not be so well known to you all.

In order for a student to receive this award he or she must have conducted an above average amount of study in the society's research library and written an interesting article — thereby letting the public in on the research.

Traditionally, members of Mike Tripp's classes at North Middle School have been winners because of their dedication to digging up interesting history on a wide variety of topics. This year was no exception.

Hamlyn was a member of Tripp's social



Lindsay Hamlyn poses with the plaque that bears the names of all the Pauline Meade Shier award winners, including hers, newly added.

studies class in 1994 and her work, "The History of Jetboat Excursions on the Rogue" was selected in May of 1995 for publication in Mondays Make History in the Daily Courier.

Because of her research in the library — and with her own family, who have run jet boats for many years on the Rogue — her article was both interesting and informative.

It earned many comments and, finally,

See WINNER page 2.

## Inside:

Letters to the editor.....	2
In the community.....	3
New library update.....	3
History at the center.....	4-5
Crossword.....	6
Bus tour sign-up.....	6
From the bookshop.....	7



## Winner continued from page 1

the student's portion of the Shier Award.

Born in Long Beach, Calif., Lindsay and her family moved to Josephine County when she was just 1 year old. Her parents own and run Hellgate Jetboat Excursions. Her brother Travis, a senior, and her sister Kelly, a fifth-grader, and Lindsay herself have grown up in both the boats and the Rogue.

Currently a sophomore at Grants Pass High School, her favorite classes are art and English. In her spare time, Lindsay enjoys horseback riding, tennis and art. She participates on both the equestrian and tennis teams for the high school and is thinking of pursuing a degree and career in marine biology. She's especially interested in studying animal behavior.

In addition to a spot on the plaque, which bears the names of all the previous winners since the award was originated, Lindsay received a \$50 savings bond and a warm round of applause at the November meeting of the membership at the Izaak Walton Building. The bond, incidentally, was donated by Roger Zufah of the Bank of America.

### Give this form to a friend

#### I would like to be a member

Please enroll me as a member in the Josephine County Historical Society. Enclosed are my annual dues of:

- ☐ \$15 (individual)
- ☐ \$25 (family/school)
- ☐ \$55 (corporate)
- ☐ \$100 (sustaining member)

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Mail to:  
Josephine County Historical Society  
508 SW Fifth St.  
Grants Pass, OR 97526

## Letters to the editor

### Dear Historical Society:

Thank you for your hospitality on our tour of the Schmidt House. We especially liked the dollhouse and the hair care tools. It would be fun to have that playroom in our house.

(Signed — in bright colors — by all the members of ...)

**Brownie Girl Scout Troop #154,  
Grants Pass  
led by Brenda Bollet**

*Note: The house was visited by Girl Scout Troop #144 as well in April, led by Callie Lynn.*

### Arden McConnell, Josephine Co. Historical Society:

The board seminar for the Pacific Non-profit Network was a success — and would not have been without your help. A million thank-yous to you and your office for getting this going. We had fun and we will be doing more.

I will be in touch about our other activities. Thanks again.

**Kathy Bryon,  
Pacific Non-profit Network, Inc.**  
*Editor's note: The society belongs to the Network and hosted the seminar Bryon mentions at the Schmidt House.*

### Marge Potter, Josephine Co. Historical Society:

Thanks very much for your letter. The information that you sent is VERY helpful. I did not have Sarah's (Sarah Ross Bunch Hopwood Williams Custar) husbands in the right order before, and I did not know the full name of #4! I also did not know about Drucilla's marriage to George "Gaddis" Hopwood.

I decided to join the Josephine County Historical Society in appreciation of your efforts and also because I have roots in Oregon that I didn't know about until recently. I am also enclosing \$20 to cover an hour of research, as I can tell that you are excellent at it.

Thanks so much for your help. I really appreciate what you have already done.

**Judy Rodriguez,  
Santa Barbara**

*Editor's note: Interestingly, considering Sarah's propensity for romance, we received the above letter of thanks on Valentine's Day.*

## THE OLDTIMER

is the newsletter of the Josephine County Historical Society,  
508 S.W. Fifth St., Grants Pass, OR 97526.  
(541) 479-7827

Annual membership dues are \$15 and include a subscription.

**Edith Decker — editor  
Lee Ann Tardieu & Joan Momsen  
publishing committee chairmen**

The circulation of The Oldtimer is 650. It is published quarterly. The publishing committee also produces an annual calendar, mailed free of charge to all members of the society.



# President offers an update on the research library

We are working hard to complete the Roberts house remodeling, with the extra help of some board members and business leaders.

Tom Bristol, Mike Oaks, Joan Momsen, Roger Ramsey plus non-board members in our fan club, Al Luttrell and Steve Lewotsky from the city planning department have offered valuable assistance.

A special thanks goes to Rendata employees Steve and Dave and Boy Scouts Ken and Barry (and their mom Nancy) as well for their work.

We've removed the inside walls to insulate them — they were lathe and plaster so that saved a LOT of money.

Meanwhile, Geno Gates completed a soda blasting — that's a process designed especially for historic buildings to remove paint. Now we're busy painting on weekends.

We have submitted grants to three foundations at present, so now we'll have the tough job of waiting until we hear, hopefully, some good financial news. But in the meantime, the estimate for water and sewer

installation came in at \$3,150 — so if you have some "egg money" hidden away ...

It's important to personally thank the businesses who have donated time and/or materials when we're able to. This past month, Grants Pass Sanitation donated a large dumpster for our construction junk, for instance.

Lastly, I'd like to remind all members that events are open to all — you and your guests — and we want to see you.

*Marilyn Luttrell, president*

## In the community

■ **SPEAKING OUT.** Five members offered words of wisdom in the past months. Pat Bristol talked about her set of drawings of the Schmidt House with the Josephine County Artists Association. Edna May Hill and Larry McLane talked to the genealogical society about county history at the public library during a recent meeting. Mike Oaks made a presentation on the Schmidt family to students at Brighton Academy. And Marilyn Luttrell has a date to speak about the society and all it does in the community with members of the Lions Club at an upcoming meeting.

■ **FRUITDALE STUDENTS DIG INTO HISTORY.** Nancy Nelson's archaeology class of second through fifth graders from Fruitdale Elementary School also visited the library this spring. They broke into two groups and went about researching artifacts. All the while, one group was trying to guess what sort of artifacts the other group was studying. One was working on Native American artifacts while the other on Chinese and other mining artifacts. When they studied up, they fashioned their own replicas and had a guessing game as to what the objects were. Principal Tom

Ettel joined the class during its visit.

■ **VOLUNTEERS HONORED AND FEASTED.** April 27 marked the date of the society's annual Volunteer Service Potluck at the Schmidt House. Names added to the plaque for 1996 were: Pat Bristol, Tom Bristol, Bob Lane, Al Luttrell, and Betty Wetherbee. The names were added in grateful appreciation of their service to the society. Mike Oaks presented a musical oldies program for everyone in attendance. And, as always, the food was top-notch.

■ **MIDDLE SCHOOLERS KEEP THE LIBRARY ABUZZ.** Every year between January and June the research library is busy with students and this year seemed more hectic than ever. Besides the usual suspects from Mike Tripp's classes at North Middle School, we also received two visits from Fleming Middle School's talented and gifted class, coordinated by Ms. Davey. Teacher Becca King came in with one group and the vice principal, Dave Luce, with the second. They were working on historical sites in the Merlin area for their morning news program and are planning to make short videos of each site, which they'll present to the society.


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## History at the center

### Before it goes, some reminders of the Walton

**A**s most of you know, the Izaak Walton Building is scheduled for demolition — probably sometime this summer. We thought it would be interesting to look through the clippings for some reminders of the project when it was beginning.

The May 10, 1949, Daily Courier reported that the 360 logs were being grooved at the Lloyd Morrison's River Rest Resort near Galice and were expected in Grants Pass in 10 days.

The logs were donated from J.E. Bartlett's Big 4 mine downriver 14 miles and hauled up to be grooved.

"It is to be stockade-like in appearance — similar to Morrison's Lodge — with logs grooved and standing vertically, peeled and polished."

The reporter notes that just after

World War II, Jack and Betty Hughes presented an entertaining show that brought in \$1,000 and a series of auctions the Izaak Walton League put together brought in another \$2,000 — the foundation of their building fund.

In July 1949, Mayor Milbank and City Manager John Porter officiated at a ceremony to raise the corner post of the building.

A couple months under the construction deadline, the league opened the newly completed building for "public inspection" May 27, 1950. The first meeting of the Rogue River Chapter of the league had been held the night before.

The society has a copy of the invitation to members to the first meeting in the new building, signed by Sherman Smith, then secretary.

The program was dedicated to Jack Russell who had donated and done much of the work on the fireplace.

The menu was, of course, baked salmon.

The local chapter was formed on Aug. 12, 1942, by Wilford Allen, Joe Wharton and other fishermen and outdoorsmen. The first president was E.S. Heydenburk, who was still active when the building — then referred to simply as "the clubhouse" — was erected.

Other charter members included Dr. Inkrote, Lloyd Morrison, Dr. Walker, R.H. Singleton, Machlin Robinson, Marvin Clark, Art McQueen, Gladwin Smith, Ted Paulus, W.G. Bonney and — the only woman on the charter — Stella Wilcoxon, who joined with her husband, Allen.

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W.A. (AL) TILLERY

## From the collection

### Got two bits?

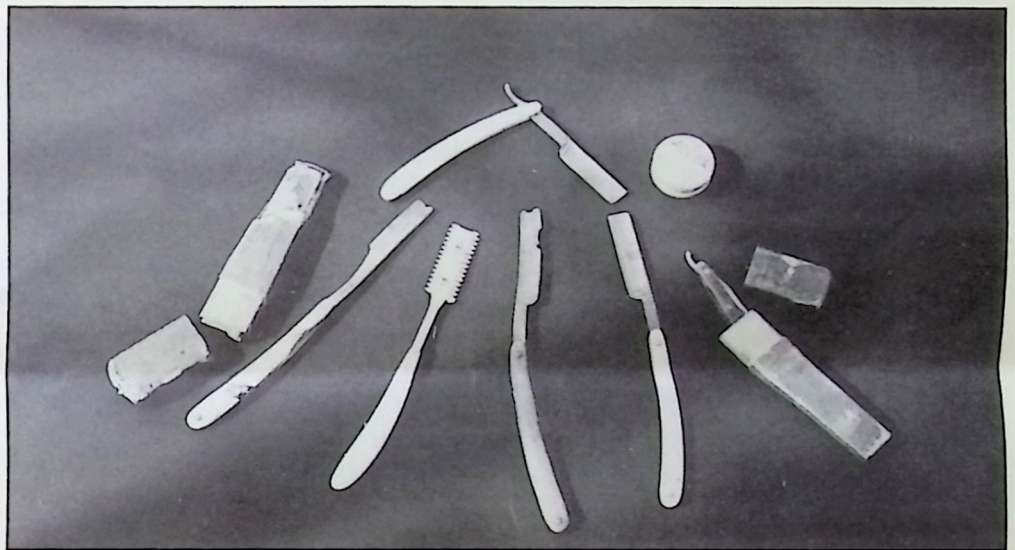
*"From the collection." features interesting items in the care of the society. Some may be recent acquisitions or some may be long held by the society.*

A shave and a haircut isn't exactly two bits anymore. And these razors, a couple of them in their original cases, have increased in value as well — they're now collector's items.

These tools — as commonplace in their day as electric shavers are now — were part of a two-box delivery from a local attorney settling the estate of Harold Messenger.

Mr. Messenger amassed quite a collection of straightblades and note the small container, top right that contains salve for the odd nick.

Along with these, the box contained other items which would have been commonplace in a 1920s or 1930s bathroom, many of them still with



A batch of the interesting personal care products for men from before the age of Avon ladies.

labels from local pharmacies. Some of the medicine bottles — sent for via mail from sundry Midwest and East Coast suppliers of cures — still had medicines in them.

Inventorying the box — and reading the directions and claims on the sundry boxes and bottle backs — offered a half hour of amusement for the office staff on a recent afternoon.



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# Crossword ... or is that cross-number?

Lee Ann Tardieu put this numerical crossword together for fans of both history and puzzles. Cheetahs never prosper, but if you just want to check that you are right, see page 8 for the answers.

## ACROSS

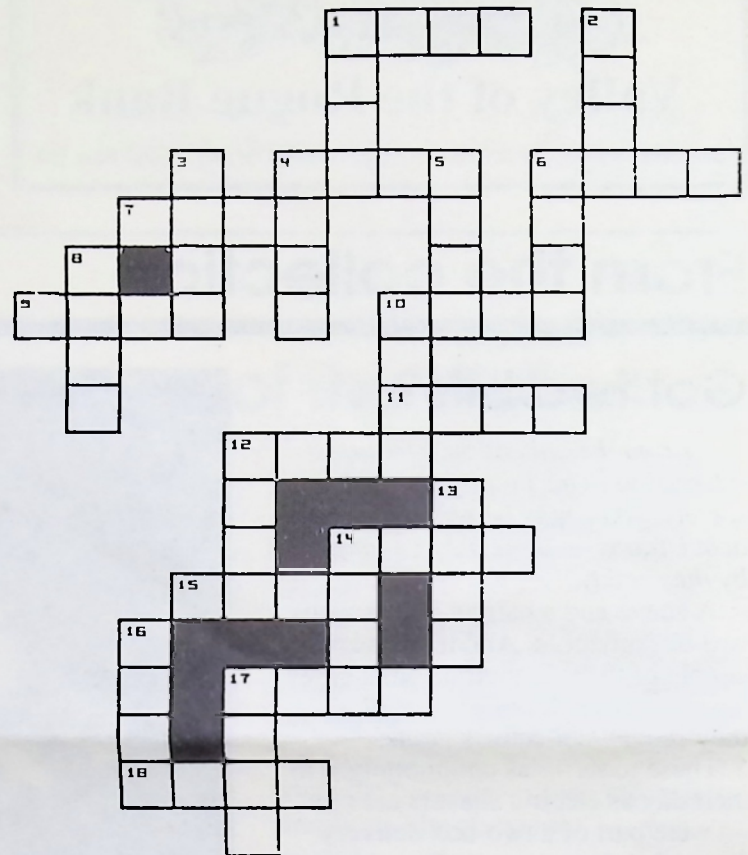
1. 100th Grants Pass High School Graduation
4. Mexico declares independence from Spain
6. Oregon boundary settled; Donner Party fiasco
7. Oregon Territory established
9. Grants Pass gets the railroad
10. Lewis and Clark started for Oregon
11. Remember the Alamo?
12. Robert Gray discovers the Columbia River
14. St. Augustine, Florida, established
15. Zebulon Pike goes West
17. Pensacola founded by Spanish
18. San Diego established

## DOWN

1. First class graduated from Grants Pass High

## School

2. Grants Pass High remodeled
3. Great migration on the Oregon Trail
4. Northwest Company and Hudson Bay Company merge. (They remain the Hudson Bay Company.)
5. 49th parallel accepted as British-American border
6. Grants Pass Academy established
8. Texas annexed to U.S.
10. Robert Stuart discovered South Pass
12. Spokane House established; American Fur Company established
13. LaSalle the first white man to go the entire length of the Mississippi River
14. Santa Fe established
16. Astoria established by American Fur Co. owned by John Jacob Astor
17. French and Indian War ends



## 1996 Klamath Falls Bus Tour? SIGN ME UP!

Mail this form to Josephine County Historical Society, 508 S.W. Fifth St., Grants Pass, OR 97526.

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) for the historical bus tour on June 15.

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_. (Cost is \$15 per person.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Bus tour schedule set

Every year we try to add spice and variety to the bus tour schedule with something new. This time out, Mike Oaks will lead a group to Klamath Falls on June 15.

The tour leaves the Schmidt House, Fifth and J streets, at 8 a.m. and will return about 5:30 p.m. A lunch stop is scheduled in Klamath Falls. (Bag it or buy it — your choice.)

Here's the itinerary: Along the route, Mike will point out some Applegate Trail markers and give interesting facts about the National Historic Trail. Once the group arrives in Klamath Falls, they'll get a tour through the Klamath County Museum, which features sections on Indian history and pioneer settlement in the county.

The county museum also operates the Baldwin Hotel, which you will have time to stop at. (Admission is an additional charge.) The hotel, built in 1906, is a state and national historic landmark.

A street fair with food, music and a working trolley will be going on during our visit as well.

Sign up at left to go along. Or call the society for information, 479-7827. But hurry space is limited.



# Words from the bookshop

## Surran retires, but first declares a sale

By Nancy Surran

The book shop staff would like to express our appreciation to all who have been so supportive during the past year. Your book purchases have certainly helped the entire society.

We will soon be providing a discount area where selected titles will be offered at markdown prices. This will enable us to give you new and fresh material for your reading pleasure at reduced prices, while giving us additional shelf space for new books.

If you are a "member across the miles" or don't get around much anymore, remember you can order books by sending a letter with the titles you request, your address, a check for the cost plus \$2 for shipping (50 cents each additional book) and we'll send your order to you.

Here are the books on the discount shelf for spring:

■ "Beauty of Oregon," at \$6.95.

■ "101 Best Fishing Trips in Oregon," at \$5.95.

■ "Ghost Towns of the Northwest at \$9.

■ "In Search of Western Oregon," at \$10.45.

■ "Oregon for the Curious," at

\$5.50.

■ "Guide to the Rogue River Basin" at \$10.50.

Everyone loves a sale. But new is always good, too.

The featured titles on the shelves this spring are either brand new or set out to feature a local author:

■ "Fire at Eden's Gate," by Brent Walth, is subtitled "Tom McCall and the Oregon Story." McCall, of course, was Oregon's governor from 1967 to 1975. Attention is given to the environmental movement and his two powerful families. \$29.95.

■ "Golden Days and Pioneer Ways," by Ruth Pfefferle, is a compilation of columns written by the author for the Illinois Valley News — often the stories of oldtimers about the area. \$15.95.

■ "The Man Who Loved Flying," by Edna May J. Hill, is the story of Col. Leroy Gray Heston, Grants Pass boy made good. (See last Oldtimer for review.) \$8.95.

■ "First Over the Siskiyou," by Jeff LeLande, is the story of Peter Skene Ogden's 1826-1827 journey. \$19.95.

■ "The Rogue, a River to Run," by Florence Arman. The story of Glenn Woolridge, a river runner who spent his best years learning the swirls and eddies of the Rogue. \$16.95.

■ "First There Was Twogood," by Larry McLane. He calls it a pictorial history of Northern Josephine County, but there's plenty of good reading in there, too. \$29.95

■ "Holy Mackinaw" by Stewart Holbrook." A bargain at \$3.95, this is the "natural history" of the American Lumberjack.

■ "Skookum" by Shannon Applegate. Perfect for this year of celebration of the trail named for her family, Applegate offers the story of Jesse Applegate, the surveyor of the trail.

■ "The Scott-Applegate Trail: Atlas and Gazetteer" by Charles George Davis. A memorial edition at \$15.

■ "Hardship and Justice," by Barbara Hegne, offers true tales of Southern Oregon pioneer women. \$4.

■ The 1996 calendar celebrating the Applegate Trail. The society's publishing committee printed some spares, which feature original drawings by Pat Bristol throughout. A must for trail aficionados, get a spare for a fellow history lover. \$5

*Editor's note: This is Nancy Surran's last report as she has turned management of the shop to Evelyn Davis and intends to spend a much quieter summer because of it. Thanks for everything Nancy.*

*If you frequent any of the businesses who are gracious enough to advertise in The Oldtimer, be sure to mention that you appreciate their support of the Josephine County Historical Society. Without them — the newsletter just wouldn't be the same. It might not even BE at all.*



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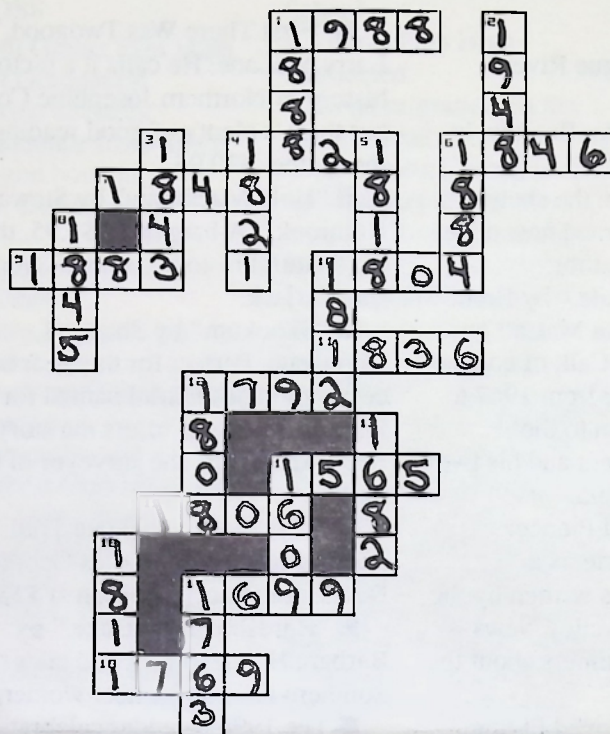
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# DON'T LOOK!

below are the answers to the numerical crossword puzzle found on page 6.



## In memorium

The society regrets to inform the membership that the following members have passed away since our last newsletter:

Arthur E. Phillips

Theodore (Ted) E. Steiwig

Evelyn Allen Neibel

## Don't miss the potluck

One of everyone's favorite society events is the potluck in Sunny Valley.

This year it's set for May 18 at 12:30 p.m. at the old town hall.

Mike Oaks and Larry McLane have put together a special program on the Applegate Trail — including a cool slide show.

So bring your favorite dish to share and a place setting and we'll have at it.

## THE OLDTIMER NEWSLETTER

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